

I CLAIM:

1. A method for downloading to a client device, and therein auto-configuring, an imaging device driver which, along with relevant configuration 5 information, is embedded in the imaging device, said method comprising

establishing between the client device and the imaging device an operative connection, including a bi-directional, imaging-device communication port which is (a) compatible with both devices, and (b) the port via which imaging-job information will be exchanged between the devices.

10 in relation to said establishing, and utilizing the mentioned port, effecting a companion delivery download therethrough from the imaging device to the client device of both the imaging driver and the relevant configuration information, and in association with said effecting and resulting delivery, auto-configuring in the client device the delivered imaging driver utilizing the delivered configuration information.

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2. The method of claim 1, wherein said effecting includes issuing from the client device to the imaging device a request through the communication port for the delivery of the driver and the configuration information.

20 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the communication port employed is RAW port 9100.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the communication port employed is IEEE 1284 ECP parallel port.

5. The method of claim 2 which is employed with a client device which possesses an add-device process, and which further comprises integrally linking the process of requesting, downloading and auto-configuring with such process.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the communication port employed is RAW port 9100.

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7. The method of claim 5, wherein the communication port employed is IEEE 1284 ECP parallel port.

8. In a setting which includes an operatively and communicatively interconnected client device and imaging device, wherein the imaging device possesses an embedded imaging driver and related configuration information, and the imaging device is not yet installed on the client device, a method comprising

identifying, and preparing for use, a bi-directional communication port via which imaging-job information may be exchanged between the two devices, and

20 using this port, sending from the imaging device to the client device the embedded imaging driver along with the related configuration information, and

following said sending, and in the client device, auto-configuring the sent driver with the sent configuration information.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the client device possesses, and includes the capability to implement, an add-device process, and said sending and auto-configuring steps are effectively integrated with implementation of that process.

5 10. The method of claim 8, wherein said sending is preceded, and triggered, by a request process which is initiated from the client device and communicated to the imaging device through the communication port.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein the port which is identified and prepared  
10 is RAW port 9100.

12. The method of claim 8, wherein the port which is identified and prepared  
is IEEE 1284 ECP parallel port.

13. Embedded-driver downloading and configuring structure comprising  
an imaging device possessing an embedded driver and related configuration  
information,

5 a client device having the capability for operative installation of said imaging  
device,

a communication port defining a shareable, compatible via for the exchange of  
imaging-job information between said devices, and

appropriately inter-associated request, response and auto-configuring structure  
distributively present in said client and imaging devices, operatively connected to said  
10 port, and operable, collaboratively, to effect a chain of events including

- (a) a request from said client device to said imaging device for the download  
of embedded driver and configuration information,
- (b) a responsive download from said imaging device to said client device, and
- (c) an auto configuring of the downloaded driver in said client device utilizing  
15 the downloaded configuration information.

14. The downloading and configuring structure of claim 13, wherein said communication port is RAW port 9100.

15. The downloading and configuring structure of claim 13, wherein said communication port is IEEE 1284 ECP parallel port

16. A communication-associated process involving (a) a client device, and (b) an imaging device which includes an embedded driver and related configuration information, said process comprising

10           communicatively associating the two devices, and thereafter, and employing the embedded driver and related configuration information, equipping the client device with a fully configured installation of the driver.

17. The process of claim 16, wherein said equipping involves communicating the embedded driver and related configuration information directly from the imaging device to the client device via a selected imaging port through which imaging-job information will be exchanged between the two devices during the shared implementation of an imaging job.